श्री सभापति : संक्षेप में कह दीजिये ।

डा० राजेन्द्र कुमारी वाजपेयी एजूकेशन मिनिस्ट्री की तरफ से इस साल 5 करोड़ रुपया रखा गया है। इसके अन्तर्गत 10 हजार स्कूलों में ये खासतौर से एजूकेशन परपज के लिये रखे जायेंगे। अभी तक 13 स्टेट्स में इसको युटिलाइज किया गया है। गुजरात, उड़ीसा, केरल, नागालैण्ड, हिमाचल प्रदेश, आंध्र प्रदेश, मिजोरम, गोवा, दिल्ली, लक्ष्यद्वीप, दादरा, नागर हवेली में इसको इस साल और बढ़ाने जा रहे हैं ।

श्री सुरेश पचोरी : माननीय सभापति जी, हरिजन आदिवासी स्कूलों में टेलीविजन की उपलब्धता जो सरकार ने कराई है वह एक स्वागत योग्य कदम है । लेकिन इससे भी महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि टेलीविजन के कार्यक्रम का जो समय निर्धारित होता है उसमें महत्वपूर्ण कार्यक्रम, शिक्षा के कार्यक्रम सायकाल या रात्रिकाल में प्रसारित किये जाते हैं ताकि हरिजन और आदिवासी छात्र सांयकाल और रात्रिकाल में प्रसारित होने वाले कार्यक्रमों से लाभांवित हो सकें और उन्हें विभिन्न विषयों की पर्याप्त जानकारी मिल सके । इसको मद्देनजर रखते हुये आशा है कि आदरणीय मंत्री महोदय इस सदन में घोषणा करें कि वे हरिजन-आदिवासी छात्रावासों में भी टेलीविजन उपलब्ध कराने के लिये प्रयास करेंगे । साथ ही सरकार ने अपने उत्तर में 101 इलाकों में टेलीविजन सर्विस प्रदान करने की बात कही है तो क्या सरकार ने इसको फिर से फीड कैंवे किया है और जो 101 जो उपलब्ध कराये गये हैं उनमें से अभी तक कितने काम कर रहे हैं ?

डा० राजेन्द्र कुमारी वाजपेयी : सभापति जी, जो स्पेशल प्रोग्राम ट्राइबल एरियाज के लिये डिजाइन किये गये हैं, इन्फर्मेशन एंड ब्राडकास्टिंग मिनिस्ट्री की ओर से वे इस प्रकार बनाये गये हैं कि उनमें जो मसले फोकस करेंगे वह एजूकेशन, हैल्थ और रूरल टेक्नालाजी के ऊपर होंगे और ये स्कूल उसके अन्तर्गत रखे गये हैं । इसका उद्देश्य भी यही है कि स्कूलों में बच्चों को उनके माध्यम से शिक्षा दी जा सके और शिक्षा के विभिन्न पहलुओं को ध्यान में रखकर इसका लाभ उठाया जा सके । यहां पर बार बार होस्टल का सवाल उठाया जा रहा है । अगर स्टेट गवर्नमेंट इसमें 50 प्रतिशत का जो अनुदान देती है तो उस 50 प्रतिशत में अगर स्टेट गवर्नमेंट टेलीविजन सेट दे सकती है तो हमारी तरफ से इसमें कोई एतराज नहीं होगा ।

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Sir, the hon. Members have asked a number of questions. Obviously, certain aspects for TV sets for hostels and tribal areas relate to Ministry of Welfare. Educational programmes are prepared by the Ministry of Education and broadcast by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They are telecast by you.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I just wish to say that all the three Ministries...

MR. CHAIRMAN:... are working together.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT:... Will try to sort out as best as we can, keeping in view the views which have been expressed by the Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 156.

*156. [*The questioner* (*Dr. Yelamanchili Sivaji*) *was absent. For answer* vide *col.* 38-39 infra].

Review of Functioning of (PDS) Public Distribution System.

*157. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of meetings of the Advisory Council for Public Distribution System held to review the functioning of Public Distribution System during the last two years; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take or have taken to bring the consumer goods within the reach of the poor and for building a consumer protection movement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) A statement indicating the information asked for is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Since July, 1986 two meetings of the Advisory Council for Public Distribution were held.

(b) The Central Government has assumed responsibility for procurement and supply of seven essential commodities, namely, rice, wheat, levy sugar, imported edible oils, kerosene, soft coke and controlled cloth through the Public Distribution System. The responsibility for distribution of these items through the network of fair price shops vests with the State Governments/UT Administrations. With a view to ensuring that these items are brought within the reach of the common man, States/UTs have advised from time to time to open more fair price shops. It has also been suggested to States/UTs to introduce mobile vans to cover the hilly, remote, far-flung, desert, tribal and inaccessible areas. Accordingly, there are about 3.47 lakh fair price shops in the country which are by and large well spread out.

The Department of Civil Supplies has also, *inter-alia* impressed upon the States/UTs for:

(i) covering the entire population, vulnerable sections in particular, through issue of ration cards, ensuring regular availability of essential commodities, setting up of consumer advisory/vigilance committees to oversee the functioning of the PDS and tightening the enforcement and inspection arrangements;

(ii) arranging the distribution of additional items other than the seven items mentoned above through the PDS; and

(iii) the expansion of the network of consumer cooperatives in order to supplement the PDS effort.

Monitoring of supplies of essential items is being done by the Central Government and by the States/UTs Governments.

Central Government has also provided financial assistance to the States/UTs to purchase mobile vans for distribution of essential items. Financial assistance is also being provided to the States/UTs to strengthen and expand the network of consumer cooperatives.

In addition to the existing laws meant for protecting consumers' interest, the Central Government has enacted a comprehensive legislation, namely, the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, which applies to all goods and services. To create consumers' awareness the Government has taken several steps, such as holding of seminars, workshops, publicity through T.V. & AIR, issue of brochures, etc.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, the statement says that in two years the Advisory Council has met only twice. I want to know why it has met only twice and not more often. What are the recommendations made by this Council and how far they have been implemented?

SHRI SUKH RAM: This Advisory Council is supposed to meet twice a year and steps were taken to convene the Eighth meeting of the Council at Srinagar. But due to some unavoidable cirumstances, the meeting could not take place. Similarly another date was fixed. Then also the meeting could not take place. Now the Ninth meeting was held in New Delhi on 14th July, 1988. The recommendations made by the Eighth meeting of the Advisory Council which was held in August 1986, relate to the following.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Sir, what about Questions 151, 152 and 153?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You were not present at that time.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: No, Sir, I was here throughout.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When your name was called you were absent... You kindly see the record. You were absent.

I permitted Question No. 150 because the Minister was absent. She has come, so Mr. Jogi could not be denied his right because he was present.

कृषि मंत्री (श्री भजन लाल) : सभापति जी, यह भी सच्चे इसलिये हैं कि 150 के बाद आपने 157, 158 कह दिया पहले आपने जब 150 बुलाया था तो मंत्री हाजिर नहीं थे इसलिये यह गलतफहमी हो गई उनको पहले आपने बुलया था लेकिन उस वक्त वे नहीं थे । इन्होंने समझा 150 के बाद अब मेरा आयेगा ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have told him. When I called Question No. 153, he was not there.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: No, Sir, he was here.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Sir, I was sitting here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He was not there. I know him. Because you were absent, you do not know what happened. What actually happened was, when Question No. 150 was called, the Minister was absent. The Minister came later, she apologised and then I could not deny Mr. Jogi who was present his right to put the questions because it was not his fault. In your case, now it will come when I repeat the questions after all the questions are exhausted.

SHRI SUKH RAM: Sir, the decisions taken by the Eighth meeting of the Advisory Council were as under:

Allotment of sugar five months in advance. This recommenation has been implemented.

Secondly, levy sugar quota allotment may be made on the basis of the population projected for 1986. This recommendation also has been implemented. The population of August, 1986 has been taken into consideration and levy sugar quota has been enhanced with effect from February, 1987.

Thirdly, it recommended joint inspection by the representatives of FCI and the State Government. This recommendation is also implemented.

Fourthly, States had demanded additional allocation of kerosene and enhanced levy cement quota. Excepting enhanced levy cement quota, additional kerosene allotment is being made.

And the fifth was, the State Governments and Union Territories demanded construction of more storage godowns by the FCI. This is also being implemented.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: The statement mentions the Consumer Protection Act of 1986. More than two years have passed. This Act which is a comprehensive Act, provides for prosecution and complaints and makes some very other interesting provisions. So want to know what action has been taken under this Act, how many complaints have been received, how many prosecutions have been ordered and what follow-up action under this Act has been taken.

On page 2 the first sentence talks about expansion of the cossumer cooperative stores. But I find that the co-operative movement is in a very bad shape in our country, particularly the consumer movement. There is hardly any consumer movement in the country. Some of the Super Bazaars that have been opened, are being closed. I find in Lucknow, the capital of the State of Uttar Pradesh, the biggest Super Bazaar has been closed. So, instead of progressing, we are going back. What is he going to do about reopening of the Super Bazaar particularly in Lucknow? How many prosecutions have been launched, what action has been taken under the Act and what is the follow-up?

SHRI SUKH RAM: Sir, I share the concern of the hon. Member. As far as the consumer movement is concerned, this is really at a very initial stage, and by passing this Act necessary actions are being taken to creat

awareness amongst the consumer. Under this Act the State Governments have been requested to constitute Consumer Protection Councils and quasi-judicial forums at the district level and at the State level. I do not remember the exact number of States which have constituted the quasi-judicial forums. But there are certain States which have constituted these forums.

As far as the Central Consumer Council is concerned, as I told last time also, the Chairman has already been nominated. Steps have been taken to nominate the rest of the four Members. I think, within a short time the entire Central Council will be constituted.

About two meetings have already taken place under my chairmanship. Another is taking place on the 23rd of this month. All necessary steps are being taken to ensure that the interests of the consumer are protected.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What happened to Lucknow?

SHRI SUKH RAM: Sir, the Member may give me a separate notice. Then only I can tell you.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: You mentioned about consumer co-operative stores here.

SHRI SUKH RAM: There are a number of co-operative stores.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The public distribution system in West Bengal is seriously affected because the Government of India has curtailed the monthly quota to West Bengal. The ean months are ahead of us. Therefore, I would like to know from the Minister whether they are going to increase the supply so that the public distribution system is not affected.

SHRI SUKH RAM: Sir, I have exlained it time and again that whatver allocations were made to the West Bengal Government, they failed to lift and on the basis of their offtake...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: In the case of West Bengal, it is not true.

SHRI SUKH RAM:...the supplies were reduced.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: In the case of West Bengal there cannot be complaint of non-lifting of the quota. It has been unilaterally curtailed, and it is affecting the distribution system particularly in the countryside where the poor people live.

SHRI SUKH RAM: Sir, I can prove it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is only a dispute on fact. He says that it has not been lifted. That is all. You say, it was lifted. I do not know what is what.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: The quota has been reduced.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you cut the quota?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: In that case, let them increase the quota.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is explaining.

SHRI SUKH RAM: Allow me to complete. Whatever quota was allotted to the West Bengal Government last year, about 50 per cent of the allotment was lifted by the West Bengal Government. On the basis of the offtake...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Last year.

SHRI SUKH RAM: Yes, Sir. This year I took a policy decision that instead of making allocation on the exaggerated demand of the State Government, the offtake also should be taken into consideration. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The demand of the State Government is not being met. On his own consideration he has reduced it.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: They have reduced it on their own. They are withholding supplies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

SHRI SUKH RAM: Sir, I may add one thing.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot.

SHRI M. A. BABY: They are not increasing the supply to Kerala. That is the point.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Polluted Drinking Water Supply in Delhi

*141. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to polluted drinking water supply in the capital, a large number of persons have been affected by Cholera and gastro-enteritis epidemic;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to provide safe drinking water to the residents of Delhi;

(c) whether the samples of drinking water have been lifted from different areas of the city and tested; and

(d) if so, what are the results of the tests of the samples so lifted?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) to (d) It is a fact that there has been an outbreak of gastro-enteritis and cholera in the capital in July, 1988 affecting a large number of persons. The focal outbreak of gastro-enteritis, which is a water borne disease, is mainly attributable to the residents of the affected areas consuming water from hand-pumps, drawing water from relatively shallow depths, which had got contaminated owing to insanitary conditions. In the affected areas, where there is no filtered water supply or there is acute shortage thereof, potable water is being supplied through water tankers or trucks carrying water containers. Public hydrants have also been installed for the supply of potable water. Samples of water supplied from and through the distribution system of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, are being taken regularly and the results have been found to conform to the standards.

Committee on Problems of Agricultural Marketing in Punjab

*142. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Committee to study the problems of agricultural marketing in Punjab to boost rural economy;

(b) if so, by when the proposed Committee is likely to be set up;

(c) whether Government also propose to have the views of the State Government before finalising any decision in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Social Impact of Various Programmes of Doordarshan

*143. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any feed back is available with Government to gauge the social impact as distinguished from popularity of the various programmes and also the advertisements telecast by Doordarshan;